as learners, and motivate educated youth in the village to volunteer as teachers for the campaign. The most important function that they can perform would be that of evaluation and assessment of the learners.

Entry of foreign universities

987. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to allow entry of foreign universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to improve the standard of Indian Universities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) A law for regulating the entry and operations of foreign educational institutions is under consideration of the Government.

(c) to (e) Improvement in the quality of higher educational institutions including the universities is one of the objectives of Eleventh Plan. Several schemes, for improvement in quality of universities have been included in the Five Year Plan which, among others, seek to strengthen existing universities, provide assistance for strengthening basic sciences and other research in universities, incentivise State Governments to invest in Higher Education, and establish new institutions like new Central Universities, and Innovation Universities. State Governments are also encouraged to establish model colleges of excellence in districts with lower than national GER and also new State Universities. In addition, pay and remuneration of teaching faculty have been revised upwards and have been made more attractive so that quality of teaching faculty is strengthened through induction of talented persons. Schemes of expansion as well as strengthening and creation of universities aim towards improvement of academic infrastructure like libraries, laboratories, class rooms, etc. Academic Staff Colleges (numbering 57) funded by the UGC are also geared to improve capacity of in-service teachers through regular programmes.

NABET accreditation for schools

988. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (NABET) has commenced rating of schools on the parameters of infrastructure, support mechanism and school governance to raise the country's educational system to global standards;